

CARACAS**Failure of a Betrayal**

The Kennedy Administration's idea that it could buy favorable Latin American opinion cheap by turning over Pérez Jiménez to the sworn personal enemy who is now his successor has backfired badly throughout the continent. Editorials in Buenos Aires, Santiago, Lima, Asunción and most other cities have bitterly attacked President Kennedy and the State Department, not merely for violating the traditional right of asylum (which had been granted by

Abroad

the U.S. Government before Kennedy took office) but for what Latin Americans consider a brutal "lack of piety" in the treatment of Pérez Jiménez' wife and children. In Caracas itself several papers have condemned the U.S. action, and have predicted that it will henceforth be a waste of time for the U.S. Government to seek economic concessions or military bases in South America. Politicians and leading businessmen, aware that Latin American customs often make it necessary to leave town in a hurry, have concluded that they will have to prepare possible future welcomes in Europe rather than in the United States: a decision that will do much indirect harm to U.S. business as well as political interests.

LONDON**Under the Channel**

The final report of the Anglo-French joint technical advisory committee on "Proposals for a Fixed Channel Link" is now in. The unanimous conclusions favor a railway tunnel as against a bridge, vehicular tunnel, causeway-plus-dam or various other combinations that have been mentioned. The opinion is based on costs (the tunnel alone has a chance of paying its way), convenience and safety. The decision is now in the laps of the political gods. Curiously enough in the light of last winter's political events, de Gaulle is said to want to go ahead full speed at once, and it is the British who are most heavily dragging their feet—partly, many believe, because of public apprehension at the thought of what millions of French visitors emerging from the tunnel might do to John Bull's accustomed ways.

PEKING**Russian, Nyet; English, Da.**

The conflict between Chinese and Russian Communism is being extended into a new dimension of considerable long-term significance. When the Communists took over the mainland in 1949, the principal foreign language through which advanced scientific-industrial culture filtered into Chinese life was English, which, as in most of the Orient, had been widely taught for generations. Mao drastically downgraded English—as a leftover of colonialism—and made Russian compulsory in higher level schools. The Russians shipped in tons of scientific, technical and ideological books; and a knowledge of Russian became both a mark of political reliability and a passport to a better

job. Now, without much publicity, the regime is shifting the emphasis back from Russian to English. This shift serves as a symbol to express Mao's refusal to accept Russia's predominance in world Communism, and will tend to make the rising Chinese generation inaccessible to written or radio propaganda in Russian. Apart from ideology and politics, the regime is influenced by the fact that much more of the world's scientific and technological literature is available in the English language than in Russian.

SHAPE**Coexistence Capers**

News of the August arrest of George Pâques, deputy chief of the NATO press and information services, was suppressed for more than a month, and has been played as far down as possible. Pâques has been transmitting to Soviet principals top secret, high level plans and memoranda of both NATO and the French General Staff. For twenty years he has held important posts in the French Government. In 1958 he was made chief of the Cabinet



Vicky London Evening Standard

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mission to the General Staff, and in 1961 was appointed director of studies at the official Institute for Advanced Military Studies (*Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Défense Nationale*). No one knows how long he has been a Soviet agent, or whether he was a lone operator or—as would seem more probable—part of a network.

PARIS**Haute Couture**

Milady from London, New York or Dallas who returns home from Paris carrying a clutch of gorgeous, and very expensive, creations bearing the labels of the great couturiers would be surprised and perhaps dismayed to know that they were quite possibly made in Mao's China. The Parisian designers are finding French seamstresses so scarce and so highly paid that more and more frequently they are sending material and precise instructions to China, where the clothes are sewn, adorned and embroidered. The workmanship is of the highest quality, and deliveries are being made promptly through a "French Chinese Cultural Association" that some believe operates as a convenient espionage channel on the side.

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